

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGOS 2036

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, CI, SHUM

SUBJ: LEIGH CRITICIZES PINOCHET'S TRNSITION PLAN

1. SUMMARY: AT AIR FORCE DAY CELEBRATIONS MARCH 21 JUNTA MEMBER LEIGH IMPLICITLY CRITICIZED PINOCHET'S TRANSITION PLAN. WHILE LEIGH AGREES THAT CHILE CANNOT GO BACK TO TRADITIONAL WESTERN DEMOCRACY, HE URGED CIVILIAN PARTICIPATION IN DRAFTING THE TRANSITION. SPEECH WAS LESS THAN A BOMBSHELL, BUT COULD NOT HAVE PLEASED PINOCHET. CLEARLY, RIFTS IN JUNTA ARE BECOMING MORE PUBLIC. END SUMMARY.

2. AIR FORCE CINC AND JUNTA MEMBER GUSTAVO LEIGH MADE THE ONLY MAJOR ADDRESS DURING THE TRADITIONAL AIR FORCE CEREMONY MID-DAY MARCH 21. CROWD INCLUDED THE REST OF THE JUNTA, SENIOR MILITARY FROM ALL SERVICES AND SOME MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS (US REPRESENTED BY AIRATT AND MILGP COMMANDER).

3. LEIGH MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- THE 1973 GOLPE WAS NOT JUST A MILITARY INTERVENTION, IT REFLECTED THE WISHES OF ALL CHILEANS. THE MILITARY MUST NOT BECOME ISOLATED FROM CIVILIANS AS
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COUNTRY MOVES THROUGH TRANSITION;

--THE NEW INSTITUTIONALISM MUST REFLECT VIEWS OF CHILEAN CIVILIANS;

-- CHILE CANNOT GO BACK TO TRADITIONAL WESTERN DEMOCRACY;

--THE NEW SYSTEM MUST REST UPON THE RULE OF LAW;
INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY; CLASSIC SEPARATION OF
POWERS; AND INDEPENDENT COMPTROLLER GENERAL; THE RIGHT
OF CHILEANS TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION; AND "CONSECRATION"
IN THE CONSTITUTION OF EFFECTIVE SOCIAL RIGHTS; AND THESE
MUST ALL BE IN KEEPING WITH ESTABLISHED CHILEAN BELIEFS.

4. AT LEAST ONE LOCAL RADIO STATION CHARACTERIZED THE
SPEECH AS POLEMICAL AND REPORTED THAT PINOCHET DID NOT
APPLAUD. US REPS IN ATTENDANCE, HOWEVER, DEFINITELY SAW
PINOCHET CLAP, ALBEIT WITHOUT OBVIOUS ENTHUSIASM.

5. COMMENT: READ LITERALLY, NO ONE PART OF LEIGH'S
SPEECH WAS PARTICULARLY OUT-OF-BOUNDS. IN CONTEXT,
HOWEVER, LEIGH WAS UNMISTAKENLY CRITICIZING PINOCHET'S
TRANSITION PLAN. BY DOING SO HE HAS PUT HIS BASIC
DIFFERENCES WITH PINOCHET FORWARD IN A MAJOR PUBLIC
FORUM. DESPITE THE CAREFUL LANGUAGE, PINOCHET CANNOT
BE VERY PLEASED.
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